

Appl. No. 09/577,601

Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2003

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

Without prejudice or disclaimer, please amend claim 5 and 11 and cancel claim 13 as shown in the below Listing of Claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Previously amended): The vector which is plasmid JB-3120-2 as illustrated in Figure 1A.

Claim 5 (Previously amended): An expression vector for expression of a recombinant protein in a host cell, comprising:

a nucleic acid molecule encoding a non-proteolytic analog of a *Haemophilus* Hin47 protein wherein said Hin47 protein is mutated at amino acid 91, 121 or 197,  
at least one additional nucleic acid molecule encoding the recombinant protein, and  
at least one regulatory element operatively connected to said first nucleic acid molecule and said at least one additional nucleic acid molecule to effect expression of at least said recombinant protein in the host cell.

Claim 6 (Original): The vector of claim 5 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encoding the non-proteolytic analog of a Hin47 protein includes a portion encoding the leader sequence for said non-proteolytic analog.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Original): The vector of claim 7 wherein histidine 91 is replaced by alanine.

Claim 9 (Previously amended): The vector of claim 5 wherein said at least one additional nucleic acid molecule encodes a Hia protein of a strain of *Haemophilus influenzae*.

Claim 10 (Original): The vector of claim 9 wherein said at least one additional nucleic acid molecule encodes a Hia protein which is N-terminally truncated.

Claim 11 (Amended): The vector of claim 10 wherein said N-terminal truncation is S44-~~or~~ V38.

Claim 12 (Previously amended): The vector of claim 11 which is a plasmid DS-2342-2-2 as illustrated in Figure 5.

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14-43 (Withdrawn)